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 ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SIG-01 MMO-01 PA-01 HA-05
 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 DODE-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 IO-13
 USIA-06 /074 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL/D:DLAMB
 APPROVED BY D: THE DEPUTY SECRETARY
 ARA: TATODMAN
 S/S - DANDERSON

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 TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: TODMAN SPEECH AT CENTER FOR INTER-AMERICAN
 RELATIONS

1. IN SOME AREAS PRESS IS DISTORTING SPEECH AS CHANGE IN
 CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.
 DISTORTION HAS OCCURRED WHERE LISTING OF TYPES OF ACTION
 WE SHOULD AVOID HAS BEEN MISINTERPRETED AS CRITICISM OF
 THE CONDUCT OF THE POLICY.

2. THERE HAS BEEN "NO REPEAT" NO CHANGE IN HUMAN RIGHTS
 POLICY. ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, PRESIDENT CARTER SIGNED
 PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE NO. 30 (TEXT BEING TRANSMITTED
 SEPTEMBER) AFFIRMING THE POLICY.

3. AS FOLLOWING KEY PASSAGES OF TODMAN SPEECH MAKE CLEAR,
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THERE IS NO BASIS FOR CONSTRUING SPEECH AS CRITICISM OF
 THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

4. BEGIN QUOTE: PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS IS FUNDAMENTAL
 TENET AND A CORNERSTONE OF THIS ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN
 POLICY. IT IS CENTRAL TO OUR RELATIONS WITH ALL NATIONS.
 I KNOW THAT THIS DEEP PERSONAL CONVICTION OF MY OWN, IS
 PROFOUNDLY HELD BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF
 STATE. MOREOVER, BECAUSE THIS COMMITMENT REFLECTS
 UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED VALUES, IT BINDS US RATHER THAN
 SEPARATES US FROM THE OTHER PEOPLES OF THIS PLANET. IT
 CALLS ON THE CONSCIENCE OF ALL GOVERNMENTS TO LIVE UP TO
 THEIR SACRED OBLIGATIONS. IT GIVES ALL PEOPLE HOPE FOR
 A BETTER FUTURE KNOWING THAT WE STAND BEHIND THEIR
 ASPIRATIONS TO SHARE IN THE FULLNESS OF LIFE.

THAT IS WHY WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO ALL COUNTRIES THAT THE
 NATURE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM WILL DEPEND ON THEIR
 PRACTICES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. IN DOING SO WE ARE
 NOT INTERFERING IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BUT DETERMIN-
 ING OUR OWN BEHAVIOR IN RESPONSE TO WHAT WE SEE.
 END QUOTE.

5. WHERE PRESS, OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE OPINION HAS PICKED
 UP LINE THAT THERE IS CHANGE IN HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY OR

Dept response

~~Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP~~

Change to _____
 (Y) Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
 Exemptions b () () E.O. 13526 25x () () ()

Declassify after _____

With concurrence of:

obtained not obt.
 IPS by *[initials]* Date *[initials] 2001*

~~CRITICISM OF SUCH POLICY YOU SHOULD MOVE FORCEFULLY TO COUNTER IT.~~

6. SPEECH IN USIS FILE. Q'S AND A'S SUMMARY BEING TRANSMITTED SEPARATE CABLE. VANCE

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Document Information

DOC_NBR	1978STATE045684
FILM	D780082-0791

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